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09/774,654	02/01/2001	Noriko Baba	WN-2288	8321

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EXAMINER

CHEN, CHONGSHAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 01/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/774,654	BABA, NORIKO
Examiner	Art Unit	
Chongshan Chen	2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 15 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 15 should depend on claim 14 not claim 13.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (e) the invention was described in

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-8, 10, 12, 14-16 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishimaru [6,427,155 B1].

Regarding to claim 1, Ishimaru discloses an electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:

a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic manual, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user (Ishimaru, Fig. 2 & 10,

col. 9, lines 44-67, “provides an electronic dictionary that can inform users of the number of times a search has been performed”. According to the specification, electronic dictionary can be referred to as “electronic manual”, page 2, 2nd paragraph);

a search process unit which searches contents of the parts based on a search condition (Ishimaru, Fig. 2); and

a search result display unit which displays parts which resulted from the search process unit, in order based on the reference number (Ishimaru, col. 7, lines 64-65, “the words would be displayed on screen, sorted by search frequency in ascending or descending order”).

Regarding to claim 3, Ishimaru teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further discloses a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference number of a part when the user selects and/or refers to the part among parts which are displayed by the search result display unit (Ishimaru, Fig. 2, S7, “Increment the Mark Number”, col. 7, lines 1-5).

Regarding to claim 4, Ishimaru teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further discloses a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference number of a part displayed immediately before the user stops displaying of the search results (Ishimaru, Fig. 2, S7, “Increment the Mark Number”, col. 7, lines 1-5).

Regarding to claim 5, Ishimaru teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further discloses the order of displaying the searched parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts (Ishimaru, col. 7, lines 64-65).

Regarding to claim 7, Ishimaru teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further discloses the reference number table is incorporated into the electronic manual (Ishimaru, Fig. 10, col. 7, lines 6-10).

Regarding to claim 8, Ishimaru teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further discloses the reference number table stores the reference number for each attribute of the user (Ishimaru, Fig. 10).

Claim 10 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 1.

Claim 12 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 5.

Regarding to claim 14, Ishimaru discloses a recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying an electronic manual comprising: a plurality of parts and a reference number of each part, the reference number representing the number of times the corresponding topic is referred to as searched results (Ishimaru, Fig. 2 & 10, col. 9, lines 44-67, “provides an electronic dictionary that can inform users of the number of times a search has been performed”).

Regarding to claim 15, Ishimaru teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 14, and further discloses the reference number is stored for each attribute of a user who refers to the part as searched results (Ishimaru, col. 2, lines 31-32).

Claims 16 and 18-19 are rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 6, 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishimaru [6,427,155 B1] in view of Porter, Jr. et al. [“Porter, Jr.”, 5,263,160].

Regarding to claim 2, Ishimaru teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 1, and further discloses search process unit searches contents of each part (Ishimaru, Fig. 2), except for explicitly disclosing search based on the order of reference number. Porter, Jr. discloses searching based on the order of record key (Porter, Jr., col. 1, lines 47-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Porter, Jr. with Ishimaru in order to improve the efficiency of searching (Porter, Jr., col. 1, lines 47-50).

Regarding to claim 6, Ishimaru and Porter, Jr. teaches all the claimed subject matters as discussed in claim 2, and further discloses the order of searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts (Porter, Jr. col. 1, lines 47-50).

Claim 11 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 2.

Claim 13 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 6.

6. Claims 9 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishimaru [6,427,155 B1] in view of Porter, Jr. et al. [“Porter, Jr.”, 5,263,160].

Regarding to claim 9, Ishimaru discloses an electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:

a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic manual, reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user (Ishimaru, Fig. 2 & 10,

col. 9, lines 44-67, "provides an electronic dictionary that can inform users of the number of times a search has been performed". According to the specification, electronic dictionary can be referred to as "electronic manual", page 2, 2nd paragraph); and

a search process unit which searches contents of the parts for topics satisfying a search condition (Ishimaru, Fig. 2).

Ishimaru does not explicitly disclose searching based on the order of reference number. Porter, Jr. discloses searching based on the order of record key (Porter, Jr., col. 1, lines 47-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Porter, Jr. with Ishimaru in order to improve the efficiency of searching (Porter, Jr., col. 1, lines 47-50).

Claim 17 is rejected on grounds corresponding to the reasons given above for claim 9.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chongshan Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-8319. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703)305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

CC
January 24, 2003


SHAHID AL ALAM
PATENT EXAMINER